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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
as of 1615

1. The Communists appear to be making an all-out effort in Santo Domingo. Although resistance by the army rebels and some of the supporters of Juan Bosch seems to have collapsed in the last 24 hours, the upheavals of the last few days and the willingness of Bosch's followers to distribute arms to civilians has given the Communists and other extreme left elements an opportunity. They have successfully resisted attacks by Wessin y Wessin's loyal troops throughout the day, and Wessin's group is now calling for US help.
2. It is not clear how much of Wessin's current difficulties arise from confusion and lack of coordination, because of a serious shortage of communications equipment, and how much from unexpected strength on the part of the Communists. Wessin is in trouble, but at last report he still had many of the military cards on his side. At the least he faces a bitter house-to-house struggle to clear out Santo Domingo. At the most, he could be faced with a sudden collapse of his own forces.
3. The three-man junta established earlier in the day does not seem to be gaining support. Two of its members, Navy Captain Olgo M. Santana Carrasco and Army Colonel Enrique Casado Saladin, while being classed as pro-US, were formerly closely associated with the Trujillo regime. The apparent head of the junta is Air Force Colonel Pedro Bartolome Benoit, a capable and pro-US officer who just recently returned from a six-month military supply course in the US.

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